

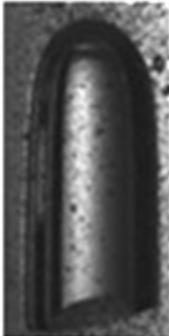
Participants'

# Audit

of the April 2013

# Strike

at Indiana University - Bloomington



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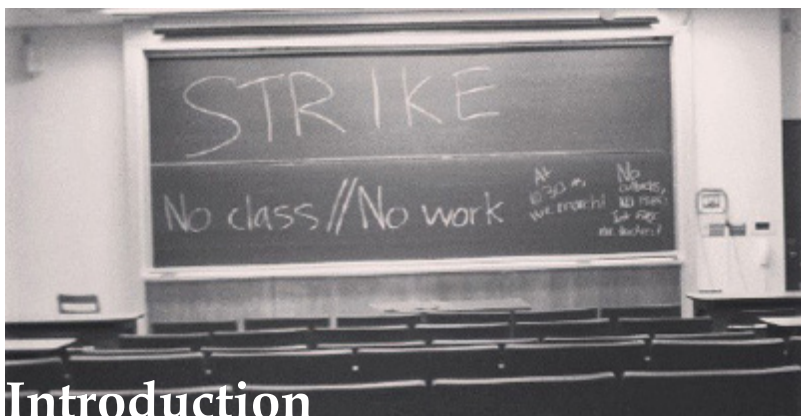
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# **Part 1:** Reflections & Analyses



## Introduction

In April of 2013, a coalition of students, workers, and non-students disrupted the usual flow of business at Indiana University. Months of build-up culminated in two solid days of activities in resistance of austerity policies at IU. Strike participants took one of IU's class buildings as a hub from which to launch marches, give free classes, serve food, hold assemblies, and generally raise commotion across campus. These actions drew the support of thousands at IU, and drew intense hostility from administrators and university police.

To the outside observer, moments like this often appear 'random,' as if they arose suddenly from the impulses of a few political wing-nuts. Those of us who were a little closer to it know that the strike at IU was brought about with many hours of work, done by people with widely differing views. Through it, we hoped to empower each other to stand up against unfair practices at IU, and against the university system as a whole.

As we continue to broaden this struggle, it seems important to reflect on some of the experiences that came out of the strike, to review our methods, and consider what we've learned so that we can share it with new allies. The authors of this text offer it as a brief account of events, and as part of an ongoing exercise in self-evaluation, the better to sharpen our tools.

# The Strike Proposal

*Indiana University, November 2012*

Recent cuts at IU have disproportionately targeted international students and students of color, college education has been eliminated from Indiana prisons, and immigration laws have been implemented that make an IU education cost-prohibitive for undocumented Indiana students[i]. These, however, are only the most blatant manifestations of the increasingly exclusionary policies of the state and administration, which further restrictions in access to a quality education for many who desire it.

As students at IU, our interests too are being subjugated to the interests of Capital. As of this year, students pay for 51% of IU's budget.[ii] Only 18 percent of the current year's budget funding comes from the state of Indiana, as compared to 50 percent in the early 1990s. [iii] Our professors, the facilities, and the administration are paid for mainly with our debts rather than state or federal funding at this supposedly "public school."

At IUB, administrators receive significant raises and unnecessary administrators are retained, but support staff pay raises fail even to cover the rising costs of health-care and parking, and staff workloads increase with growing enrollment. The School of Continuing Studies has been cut, forcing working people to pursue degrees at other institutions.[iv] Adjunct faculty and graduate students are relentlessly overworked and underpaid, and undergraduates suffer in mediocre classes as a result. Pledges by past administrations to increase diversity on campus have been superseded by more profitable investments: though former IU President Adam Herbert elicited a promise from the Board of Trustees to double the percentage of under-represented minority students at IU in 2006, during Michael McRobbie's presidency the percentage of black students at IUB has stagnated below 1976 levels, at only 4.1 percent[v]. In IU's Energy Master Plan for

the next two decades, cost-effectiveness is the sole consideration; the grossly destructive effects of climate change and fossil fuel extraction are ignored entirely[vi]. And after an increase of over 45% in tuition and fees over the past six years, costs for students are rising yet again—by over \$1000 for resident students in only two years[vii]. Meanwhile, the administration continues to fund the construction of unnecessary new buildings and luxury-style apartment suites in order to attract wealthy students. There is a trend in all of this: university education, like the rest of society, is becoming a marketplace.

By 2020, as President McRobbie has acknowledged, the state will likely provide only 10% of IU's budget[viii]. Students are treated as free consumers, but the courses we “take” are investments, and the debt we incur from them will burden us for years to come. Why don't we have a voice in the university that is equal to our contribution?

The rhetoric of “cut-backs” which disguises the push toward marketization is deceptive, and the promises of benefits as a result of this transformation are dishonest. A market-based education system will result in more standardized coursework and sterile campus life for students, increasing career uncertainty and limitations for academics, and the institutionalization of social immobility. The imposition of such a system ought to be opposed, so that education may maintain its liberatory potential.

## **A Strike**

Years of dialogue on the administration's terms have failed to improve the situation. Tuition is higher than ever, and the administration is complicit in enacting the legislature's directives. A strike is recognition of this failure and a rejection of any terms set by the administration. The principle was demonstrated at IU by students throughout the 1970s whenever tuition hikes were proposed: each time, students responded with a mass strike. Resistance has lapsed in recent years, but we can begin again now to exercise our power as students and campus workers.

We propose an IU system-wide strike to force an end to campus austerity, to interrupt the administration's rhetoric of "inevitability," and to animate the passive student body preferred by the administration with a new sense of confidence and empowerment.

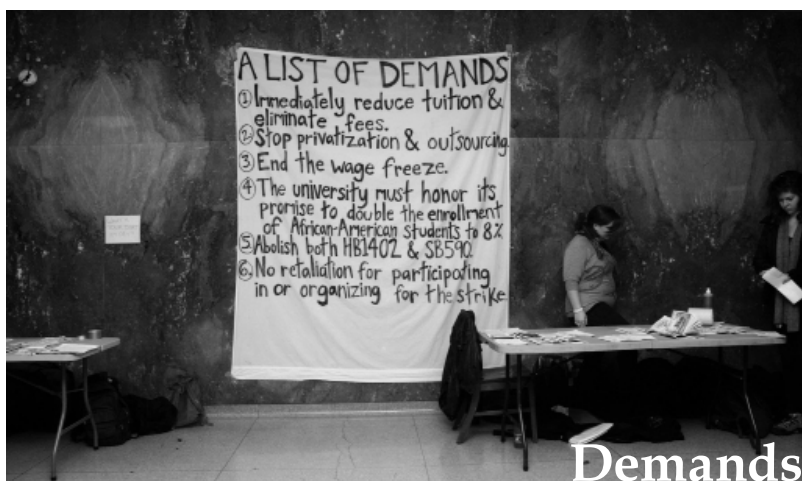
During the two days that the trustees meet next April in order to make consequential decisions on our behalf with only token outside input, we want them to be confronted with a campus that we've all shut down together. A strike would mean that students boycott classes, professors cancel classes or contribute to teach-ins, and that campus workers call in sick or walk out of work. We understand that there are serious limitations and risks involved, but we are open to dialogue to develop methods that advance the interests of students, faculty, and workers together, on terms that feel empowering and comfortable.

## **Mass Assembly**

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to the mass assembly at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, December 5th in the East Lounge of the IMU. This meeting is an open forum to discuss the problems facing the University community, as well as to organize, plan, and prepare for the strike. Bring your ideas and your responses to this document to the table. We can't effectively challenge what's going on alone, and we can't speak to your experience unless you participate. This strike can make way for a radical shift in our daily lives at school. Help us make this a reality.

*[IUonstrike.tumblr.com](http://IUonstrike.tumblr.com)*

(citation information available online)



Discussions and debates during the first few months of the strike organizing process were often focused on the question of demands. In the first Mass Assembly for organizing the strike, on December 5th, a list of grievances was compiled, and Monday assemblies over the following weeks formulated a preliminary list of demands. These were: 1) Immediately reduce tuition and eliminate all fees; 2) Stop privatization and outsourcing; 3) End the wage freeze; 4) The administration must honor its commitment to double the enrollment of African American students to 8%; 5) Abolish SB 590 & HB1402; and 6) No retaliation for participating in the strike.

The demands included in this list are all related to questions of inclusion and autonomy. In using the list of demands to challenge exclusionary, racist, anti-worker laws and university policies, the strike organizing assembly was attempting to express solidarity with people at IU engaged in ongoing struggles around diversity at IU, the cost and education, and the rights of university workers. The assembly understood both that these issues are all connected, and that powerful, disruptive political mobilization was needed if significant advances were to be made in any of these struggles. The preliminary list of demands was intended, therefore, to suggest that people

engaged in various struggles against exclusion and control at IU work in solidarity with one another on a strike, by which it was hoped that the power to gain serious concessions from the state could be built.

The decision to create a list of demands, however preliminary, was the subject of significant consternation and debate among organizers, though it was agreed early on that demands were a necessary organizing tool if a strike was to generalize significantly at IU. The sentiment that demands were necessary was based both on feedback organizers had received in their efforts to promote the initiative, and on the fact that the list of grievances generated at the Mass Assembly of December 5 needed to be condensed if it was going to be useful. Within the assembly, one concern about the use of demands had to do with the danger of appealing to authorities whose power is illegitimate. Such appeals can be limiting and are easily manipulated by those they are meant to confront. Another concern expressed was that these demands might draw attention away from contention over other legitimate sources of discontent. Finally, some organizers criticized the use of demands on the basis that the assembly might be misunderstood as attempting to represent people other than its participants.

Among the most commonly expressed criticisms from outside the assembly was the seeming impossibility of demands one and two, and that they failed to offer solutions to the problems they identified. Indeed, an IDS opinion writer wrote a column in which he proclaimed that the only way the cost of college could be lowered was through increased privatization and outsourcing, and therefore the demands contradicted themselves.[1]

The assembly's interest with the first two demands, however, was not to pose objectives which could be achieved through a single strike, but to promote self organization in order to build the power needed to challenge legislation and administrative directives.

The first and second demands are worded very generally because the assembly recognized that the cost of college will not be lowered, and privatization and outsourcing will not be stopped by administrators or politicians. These goals will not be achieved without broad based militant organization on campus, yet they are necessary if the university is to retain its role as a promoter of socio-economic mobility. Endlessly increasing tuition, privatization, and outsourcing at "public" universities are not technical problems; they are products of a politics dominated by business interests. People who oppose such austerity policies will have to develop significant disruptive power if they intend to accomplish anything. This is also the reason why no solutions were proposed in the demands: by posing solutions the assembly would seem to encourage negotiations with the administration and campaigns for office in student government, which would draw energy away from the project of building power and into the realm of endless forum discussions and isolated appointments to committees from which nothing can be changed. The administration wishes to involve student dissidents in negotiations by which they can elicit agreements about the forms dissent will take, without seriously addressing the reasons for discontent.

Another common criticism, that the demands failed to address a specific authority, can be responded to similarly: it is not politically viable for administrators and politicians to fight against austerity and cutbacks at IU, because the business interests that finance and support them stand to benefit from privatization of the university, the use of university research for private profit, and an increasingly indebted student population.

The demand to end the wage freeze was sometimes criticized because the administrative program of a wage freeze was not in effect. A de facto wage freeze has been in effect across various sectors of university workers for several years, however,

because these workers have been receiving wage increases that failed to make up for increases in the costs of services like parking and healthcare. Somewhat similarly, the final demand, "No retaliation for participating in or organizing the strike," was criticized by Provost Robel on the basis that anyone who engages in civil disobedience should be willing to accept the consequences of their actions, and that this demand therefore showed the strikers lack of moral fortitude. That demand was included specifically because significant portions of the university workforce are barred from striking in their union contracts, and because of the state-wide ban on strikes by public employees, **not** so that students would be able skip class without punishment (as if that were even vaguely difficult).

Finally, there was some criticism of the fourth demand because it lacked nuance, and of the fifth demand because it failed to call on the university administration to oppose discriminatory legislation. Both of these are legitimate criticisms. Each of these demands, as well as the concept of demands, is under consideration by participants in the strike and the organizing assembly, and it remains a question of debate and discussion how demands ought to be used in our context.

# Why Not a Student Union?

At several Mass Assemblies leading up to the strike, some very well-meaning people suggested that the students present could organize more effectively by starting an "official" student union. The more the suggestion was given, the less willing Assembly participants were to allow the "union conversation" to take up precious and scant Assembly time. This text seems like a nice opportunity to offer at a cogent response.

In order to enter into a genuine negotiation, trust is required. Dialoguing with IU's administration has been attempted many times in the past. Groups seeking reform have asked the administration to make changes. The administration has, many times, promised to make these changes a reality. Unfortunately those types of campaign-style promises often go unmet, and all the work of those involved in organizing those projects is lost. Rarely are those groups able to regain momentum after such a blow. We don't trust the promises of the administration and we refuse to let our momentum be funneled into phony "negotiations" of any kind. Forming a union would ostensibly have the goal of creating a bigger powerful voice to bring to the table. We are not interested in talking at a table, as we feel the time for talk is well past. Instead, we prefer to act.

In deciding on what actions to take, one method of choosing tactics involves a review of the past. What has worked historically? What has failed? There was a time when unions were a strong expression of collective power: the late 1800's, the 1930's. What was once innovative and powerful has now been completely assimilated into the Capitalist system it was originally created to oppose. Little can come from such tactics that the university does not already have the tools to temper.

*Put simply: Why undermine ourselves by lobbing them a slow pitch, when we can throw them a curve ball?*

More often than not, unions are now found in the form of overgrown top down governmental styled organizations where the voices of the collective are funneled and filtered through a few powerful representatives. We choose to resist types of organizing that build hierarchies into our interactions. This includes all styles that involve representative politics of any kind. Rather than creating a group of managers whose function is keeping the rest of us on task, who stand as liaisons between the administration and the rest, we would rather stand on equal footing with one another and act together against the administration.



Our assembly is a non-hierarchical meeting/discussion forum. Individuals come together to plan actions, discuss happenings, and make report-backs. One person volunteers to facilitate (or several people throughout the course of an assembly), which involves keeping discussion on track, making sure all topics for a particular assembly get covered (which are decided at the beginning by attendees), and taking "stack."

Stack is simply a list of people who have raised their hand to indicate they want to talk, kept in chronological order. Occasionally, one may be given the chance to jump ahead of stack if their comment is particularly urgent. Finger waves (up for yes, down for no) can be used as temperature checks or as nonverbal responses to a talking point.

A drawback of assembly is that sometimes you'll get an attendee who's long-winded and inarticulate, or just likes to hear themself talk, and doesn't give other people much space to speak. That being said, many of those who have had a chance to take part in a non-hierarchical assembly say it's difficult to participate in or return to a more hierarchical based model. Everyone has an equal chance to be heard.



## Demonstrations

During the two days of the strike, on April 11 and 12, there were three major demonstrations. The first of these was publicized beforehand as the 'strike demo' with posters that said "Stay Angry and Keep Fighting," "We Found Debt in a Hopeless Place," and "You Knew We Were Trouble When We Walked Out." It took place around midday on April 11. During the organizing process, the assembly had hoped that this demo would be around one thousand people strong, but ultimately it consisted of about three hundred and fifty people. Though this turn-out was smaller than hoped for, it was still larger than any demo that had happened in Bloomington for years. The march went through much of campus and into Ballantine Hall, took over all of Tenth Street on campus, and ended with lunch at the Woodburn Hall Strike Center. The strike probably became most generalized during this demonstration.

After the lunch at Woodburn on the same day, another march occurred that went to Franklin Hall, where the Board of Trustees meeting was taking place. At Franklin, the marchers rallied and chanted slogans for a while, disobeying police orders to keep the sidewalk and steps clear and eventually pushing the police inside the building and taking the steps. This was followed by a period of confusion because some people wanted to go into the meeting and others wanted to continue marching to spread the

strike or return to Woodburn for an assembly. Police were only letting five people in at a time and public comment was prohibited during the meeting, so entering in order to disrupt was impossible without risking arrest. Lots of slogans were chanted and some participants used the 'peoples' mic' to speak about their issues with debt, but it started to rain harder and the situation, which had become an uninteresting stalemate, seemed unlikely to change, so some organizers led the march back to Woodburn for an assembly.

## Workers

Throughout the build-up to the strike the people involved in the organizing assemblies were enthusiastic to reach out to the people who work on IU's campuses. A couple things that came out of this enthusiasm were a phone number and an email address which workers could contact to report threats of retaliation against them for support or participation in the strike or related activities. Hundreds of flyers were distributed at workplaces around campus urging people to contact the email or number if they sought help or support in their workplace.

This line of action was continued when at the end of a roving noise demonstration most of the group crammed into the Provost's spacious and luxurious office to make in person the demand that no worker be retaliated against for strike participation. This was followed by a threat to occupy her office if it was made known that anyone at the university had been terminated or otherwise punished for the participation in the strike. This threat was communicated again to workers by flyer as an offer of solidarity and action if such was requested.

The provosts office was not occupied a second time, but after the strike there was a march to the RPS office in solidarity with some people who worked there and participated in the strike despite workplace threats.

# Unions

After the first mass assembly in December when it was decided that a strike should occur, union leadership at IU expressed their opposition to the idea of a strike. Although union leadership appreciated the points of the demands, their hands were effectively tied by their strong connection, to and willingness to go along with, IU's administration. Although some dialogue was initiated between a few strike organizers and the unions, it became clear to many that their leadership had no real interest in supporting the strike in any way, and instead actively discouraged worker participation. Union officials policed union members into not discussing the strike, threatening their jobs if they were even seen holding a strike flyer.

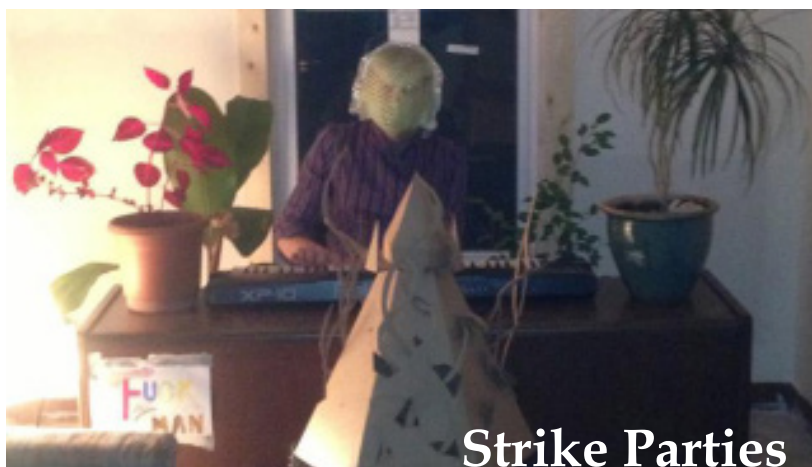
Union leadership is willing to work within the dictates of the administration rather than giving a real voice to the grievances of workers. Striking is illegal within the union contract, removing any leverage workers could potentially have. The unions are beholden to the will of the administration and were therefore unable to strike.



## Building Tension

Banner drops, wheatpasting, and graffiti all helped contribute to an atmosphere of discussion and anticipation of the strike across campus. Most bus stops, bulletin boards, and buildings were kept covered with strike materials and many sidewalks were chalked daily in the lead-up to the strike itself.

Workers excitedly reported that many of the parking garages on campus were sabotaged on the first morning of the strike, via the destruction of ticket machines. This not only interrupted the normal routine but concretely helped people by saving them money, demonstrating the positive potential for future disruption.



In the weeks leading up to the strike, there were several parties at collective houses around town in an attempt to distribute propaganda and bring in students to a “politicized” setting that was less structured and far more accessible than the Monday night assemblies. The most largest and notable of these occurred the weekend before the strike at the massive 30+ bedroom housing co-op where several of our friends live. Whats follows is one person’s short, poetic recollection of that night.

*Simultaneously from four different rooms, on two different floors, came music so drastically different and overwhelmingly loud that my only aural recollections are blurred around the edges. From the poorly-lit living, waves of crashing cymbals and guitar twang snaked out, over the literature table -- covered with hundreds of colorful posters, hamburger-fold zines, and little red felt squares -- and then awkwardly collided with the sound of dissonant piano-jolts midway down the hall-way.*

*Here, in a small bathroom-sized room to the left, was a man wearing a green, plastic criss-crossed mask that resembled the lattice on top of a pie. He was sitting behind a desk with a piece of paper taped to it that read “FUCK the MAN,” and on either side of him were a few potted plants and harsh-light lamps. He vowed from the beginning of the night to play a shitty default-voice*

keyboard without stopping once and, as far as we know, he succeeded. Most of the couches in front of him sat half empty so occasionally I would drop in to talk as he clumsily smoked a cigarette with his right hand and thoughtlessly banged the keyboard with his left. Shit was super weird; thanks for that John.

Just beyond the reach of keyboard jitters was the leaking, thumping bass of four-to-the-floor Eurotrance coming from the co-op's oversized kitchen. The jangly guitar riffs from the living room melted in the doorway of this dark, sweaty, overcrowded room and mixed with the way-too-relevant Mr. Vain sing-along:

"I know what I want and I want it now!"

The warm, collective power of that room was something I can only compare with walking down a crowded street, shoulders-pressed against hundreds of other people... which, incidentally, came just a few days later during the strike. Since that night, the potential of subtlety-insurrectionary lyrics of modern dance-pop is something I've genuinely thought about a lot. [No, really though...listen to Ellie Goulding's "Burn" or Ke\$ha's "We R Who We R" and tell me they aren't wrecking shit in the street with your best friends.]

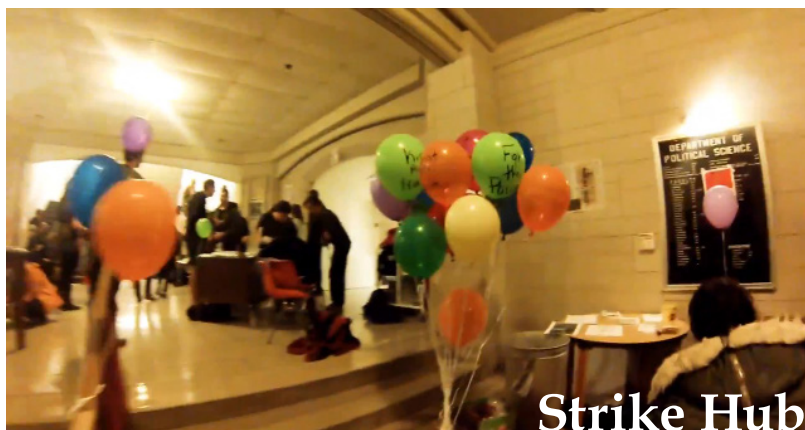
Meanwhile, some of the bass thumps jumped up the walls, through the ceiling to the top of the stairs where a constant stream of students with sketchy zines sticking out of the back pockets were waiting for some cheap beer. And once they finally made it to the adjacent room, they were met with a combination DJ-bartender, shuffling between the two to make occasionally change, grab an icy can of beer, and queue the next trap remix. To be completely honest, all that I really remember about this room was that everyone seemed to be smiling.

Even after the incredibly exciting and powerful moments of the actual strike, I still look back on this particular night as one of the most enjoyable and more strategic happenings to come out of the strike planning. In none of our attempts at "mass assemblies," noise demos, or building occupations were we able to gather such a large amount of students outside our typical circles and bring them into a situation where talking about the strike was "cool" and people were able to speak freely about their frustrations without the awkward constraints of consensus decision making. As I sit here and reflect on where to go next from here my only logical conclusion is take the joy, energy, and music from shows like these and bring them into the empty buildings of campus.

First just at night... then, maybe, indefinitely.



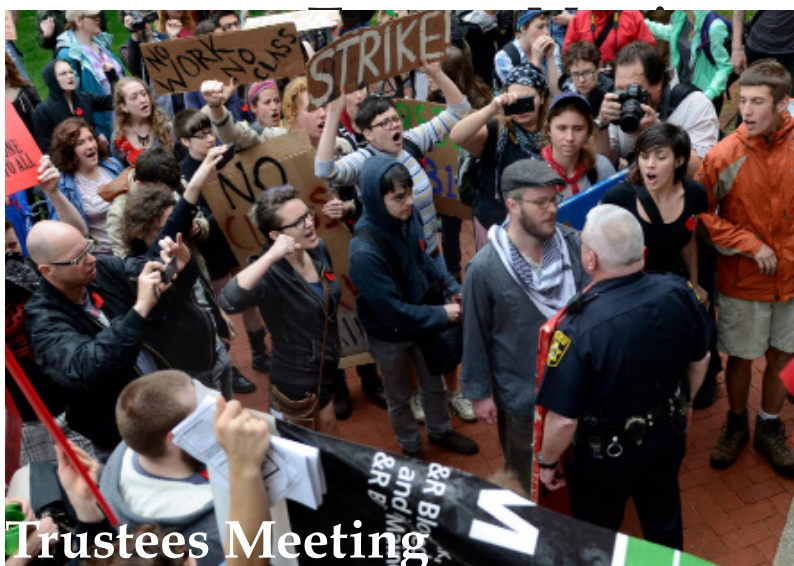
California, 2009



The organizing assembly chose Woodburn Hall to serve as a hub for activities on the days of the strike. Located in one of the most highly-trafficked areas of campus, Woodburn is a multi-purpose class building used by a diverse range of departments and students. Until very recently it was also home to an historic set of murals depicting scenes from the US civil rights and labor movements, establishing it as an important node of IU's liberal arts mission. By taking over a specific locality we were able to create a welcoming center for everyone interested in the strike, including those who may not have been involved with organizing in the past. We clearly advertised that Woodburn would be the "strike hub," and talked with professors who might be affected in advance so that they could cancel or relocate their classes if desired. During the days of the strike, general assemblies held twice each day in the main lobby of the building, 'free university' classes, free food, informal discussions, music, writing, and distribution of radical literature helped change the social and physical nature of Woodburn. By locating the strike center in an important but smaller-sized building, we were able to create a space dominated by strike activity and take a "bite-sized" chunk out of the university's normal functioning.

The strike center was a valuable aspect of the strike. It brought people together in a manner that

sharply differed from the everyday experience of life on campus, and ruptured day-to-day life even for passive witnesses. For participants, the strike challenged some of the most basic assumptions of the university. Where the dominant model would have it that education is a costly product requiring countless administrators and functionaries to deliver, we taught each other and learned for free. Afterwards, many participants agreed that we'd also experienced a much richer kind of learning during the two days of the strike than we ever had in our usual classrooms. We learned that we can take space, time, and resources outside the confines of capital and the state. More pragmatically, the strike hub was a central space in which to gather that was the right size for the number of people who participated in the strike. One potential drawback of this centralization is that we weren't nearly as visible anywhere else on campus, but proposals to address this by picketing or passing out fliers around campus were largely thwarted by bad weather. All in all, Woodburn felt very pleasant during the strike (except when police were around), and staying there helped us build bonds of affinity and trust with each other that have extended beyond the strike itself.



## Trustees Meeting

Following the strike, many organizers felt that gathering for the Trustees meeting was a low point. There was a police presence that blocked off the entrance to the building where the trustees met. The group outside chanted and soapboxed. People had been excited about being able to express their grievances with the trustees, but became disappointed and disillusioned by being barred entrance which created a palpable feeling of rage. The police began letting five people in at a time. As the demonstration progressed the group began to split with some favoring to leave the doors of the meeting and march into town, while others either wanted to stay or march back to Woodburn. In the end, everyone slowly marched back to Woodburn where an impromptu assembly was called which excitingly managed to recapture some energy from the crowd. This was also the first introduction for many to the assembly model.

It was a predictable and brilliant tactic by the police to allow students in five at a time to control and divide them. We thought they might do this at Woodburn, but they didn't; they played that card later. That formed an ideological or tactical divide

between people who were willing to accept terms of police and people who weren't: do you want to create power or create a spectacle? Spectacle is not power.

From there the strike turned into a media opportunity -- a moment of cooptation. This spectacle means playing into the hands of cops, media, university -- a vortex of shit. Soapbox speeches in front of the meeting ended up acting as the "climactic moment." The strike was linked to the board of trustees meeting by the dates that were chosen and although it seemed symbolic and widely intelligible, it created the problem of making protest at the board of trustees meeting one of the expectations, which legitimizes their authority. People were trying desperately to convince others to leave the doors of the meeting and a tug-of-war commenced between going and staying that momentarily frustrated many participants. Next time we should be willing to split the march or make our intentions clearer before participating in a demo that most organizers felt would only be cathartic for newcomers.

## Pickets

To broaden the presence of the strike, we attempted to organize numerous picketing groups for the days of the strike. They were to set out early in the morning and establish small demonstrations at key locations around campus. Picketing was meant to provide an easy way for newcomers to plug in to the strike. To organize the pickets, sign-up sheets and point-people were established. We appealed to others at the university, like frats and specific academic departments, to create their own pickets at whatever location felt important to them.

Participants stood near academic buildings and other high-traffic campus areas from about 7:30 to 10 a.m. They held signs and distributed fliers to passers-by, encouraging them to join IU on Strike activities instead of attending work or class. Picketers

had signs and banners, some of which they made themselves & some that had been painted the night before. They also took red squares to distribute on campus, along with other literature pertaining to the strike.

In reality, very few new people participated in the pickets and it largely fell on the shoulders of the same folks who had already been organizing in the build-up. Thus, turnout for this particular effort was quite small—especially on day two. The pickets did help to make the strike a bit more visible in the early morning hours. In the future, we should do more to get folks signed up for picket teams in advance, rather than hoping they will just turn up. There was some discussion of having specific meetings and events targeting different departments on campus, such as the education school. If we had done this, we might've taken the opportunity to also establish picket teams based in those departments. In either case, care should be taken not to overextend those who are doing the most by refusing to drop aspects of a project that are not coming together well. Picketing as a tactic does seem to have potential, but when it became evident that there wasn't enough energy behind our pickets to make them work, we might have been wiser to cancel it and allow those few who had committed to spend their time elsewhere.

It's worth noting that in one of the last assemblies before the strike, there was some question about whether to proceed with the pickets. The deciding factor seemed to be a comment from someone with less experience at IU who suggested that it had worked in their context. This just to highlight that, while lessons from other universities are useful, we cannot assume that the same tactics will translate across campuses and states.

# Food

One key component of the strike center was food distribution. The “Noms Committee” was formed to provide food at Woodburn during the strike. The committee provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner to all persons who would take it—not just supporters of the strike. Food was sourced primarily from dumpsters and food banks with supplements from donations by individuals. Donations of food and money were sought from businesses downtown using a canvassing model, which got a lot of posters hung up in store windows, but not so much food. The meals were cooked by a group of 12-18 people working for almost 9 hours all through the night, using a borrowed commercial-size kitchen and supplies which we received by donation and through local non-profits. Many energy shots were consumed.

Having food throughout the strike created a stronger sense of community based on a feeling of shared space. It allowed participants to remain at Woodburn throughout the day, and provided an alternative to using the university’s dining services. The food table and distribution also acted as a visible root for the occupation indicating that something outside of the university’s normal functions was happening.

For as much work as went into this aspect of the strike, however, food ran somewhat low on the second day and we ended up ordering pizzas with donated cash. If we’d planned for and prepared more meals that would store for multiple days, we could’ve stretched that money further. Additionally, the meal plans we had originally conceived ended up blurring into a sort of continuous snack time as leftovers from a meal would be left out for people between the designated serving times which became less distinct as the schedule became more divergent from the plans.

Cooking all night before the first day of the strike totally exhausted the food crew, many of whom

wished to participate in other significant ways the days of the strike. When some people had originally planned on marching and other things they ended up sleeping in late or lying exhausted on the terrazzo floors of the strike hub. Maybe getting more donations of prepared food or finding other ways of outsourcing this work away from the organizers could have helped with this, as well as finding a kitchen where we could have started earlier in the day.



## Police Response

Indiana University police maintained a visible presence from the beginning of the strike. Throughout the first day, police cars and bike patrols drove around Woodburn and unsuccessfully attempted to control Thursday's march by positioning themselves in front of and behind the crowd. An undercover officer monitored our activities inside the strike hub for most of Thursday. On Thursday night, the IUPD exhibited a massive show of force against strike participants. Twenty fully-armed officers entered through the opposite side of the building and swept up toward the main lobby. At the time, there were 60 or 70 strike participants at Woodburn working on writing, cleaning, and other projects. Though we had been told to clear out by 11 o'clock, police arrived twenty minutes early and immediately began shouting and shoving people out the door. A decent number of

people tried to slowly gather their things and clean up both as a way to resist police orders and because it was heard their might be a comrade upstairs who had not heard the police come in at first. Those who attempted to go and collect their belongings or check on friends were threatened with arrest, while one officer repeatedly implored students to 'think of themselves' rather than assist others.

After everyone was outside, a shouting match between police and strikers on the opposite side of the doors ensued. Several officers outside of the building moved suddenly to arrest one of the strikers, seemingly at random, after a small window pane was shattered in one of the doors. Some jeered at the cops in response and several officers drew their batons threateningly, commanding them to stay back. This command was promptly disregarded as several people advanced on the armed officers until the police were forced to retreat back inside the building. The resistance continued as people tried to block police cars by standing in the street. Immediately after the police left the area strike participants marched by the sounds of the Wu-Tang Clan in solidarity with their arrested friend, from campus to the Bloomington jail where the person was held and eventually released later that night. They were greeted joyfully by concerned friends and comrades with small gifts of food and beverage before everyone dispersed for the night.

When strike participants entered Woodburn on the second day of the strike, about a dozen uniformed IUPD were already camped out on tables in the main lobby. They continued to patrol the halls as they had the previous day. It is unknown whether they had another plain-clothes officer in the building. That night, strike participants chose to leave the building before it closed rather than confront police. Arm-in-arm, all wearing colorful bandanas that were handed out, and singing the old anti-fascist song 'Bella Ciao', they marched to the front gates of campus, trailed by police cars.

The police were fairly hands-off through most of Thursday, with the exception of an officer who seemed to enjoy shoving people outside the board of trustees' meeting. Given this, many of us were surprised by the seemingly heavy-handed show of police force that evening. This in spite of the fact that we'd used the space as 'respectfully' and 'appropriately' as could be imagined for any kind of protest action, without causing any damage or obscene disturbances. They entered early and aggressively, and in retrospect it's clear that we could have coordinated our response better (one comrade was even asleep at the time and was awoken by a cop instead of one of her friends!).

Never assume that an apparently lenient approach by cops will continue, particularly past nightfall when they have the benefit of a dark and empty campus with fewer potential witnesses to their actions. And always assume there's a cop in your midst during these kinds of events, because there probably is at least one. We were certainly more coordinated on the second night and enjoyed a pleasant exit from Woodburn, but it was discussed that many would've preferred to hold the building overnight and beyond if it were possible. Many people said that their favorite part about Thursday's encounter with police was the way in which people had each other's backs. Some refused to leave the building until everyone was out while others pushed toward police after the random arrest until the cops had to hide back inside Woodburn. Marching to the jail and presenting our comrade with gifts upon his release felt particularly empowering, and a great way to recapture the joyous spirit of the strike.



# Noun-ification

In the first assembly after the strike, it was widely agreed that any further organizing should take place under a new name. Not only had "IU on Strike" been used by the media and administrators to write off the robust, diverse strike as the work of a single student group, but also now that the events of April 11th and 12th had passed, "IU On Strike" would clearly be a misnomer. On the other hand, we had spent many months distributing strike literature, fliers, and images; why not embrace our shared identity as "strikers" and continue to build on the recognition we'd already gained?

A strike is a form of action that challenges hierarchy by refusing to fulfill one's usual role in it. The general assembly used its strike proposal as a rallying point, to encourage the beginnings of a cohesive culture of resistance on campus. Many students, professors, and some workers, did indeed refuse to perform their usual functions on the days of the strike, and it opened conversation and debate across campus.

Many of us felt that part of the strike's value was that it broke with the normal structure of things; through it, participants not only 'questioned authority,' but experimented with different ways of relating to each other and to space on campus. We hope that these experiments will keep multiplying across IU, and we refuse to let our anger be funnelled into ritualized protests and static student groups. For this reason, many who participated in the strike agreed to distance ourselves from 'IU On Strike' and set our sights on new collaborations against the university.

## IU on Strike protests across campus

By **TORI FATER** | IDS

POSTED AT 12:12 AM ON APR. 12, 2013





## **Part Two:**

A small selection  
of flyers & writings  
circulated  
before, during, and  
right after the strike

## **IU on Strike: Support by Social Work Students**

### **Letter to the editor, Indiana Daily Student**

"I will graduate with \$23,000 of debt. I am in my fifth year of college because I could not afford to go to school full-time. I work two jobs, one on-campus and one off-campus. Neither pay a living wage. My younger brother is graduating high school this year and has not applied to any colleges yet because he is afraid of a future filled with debt. This is not something a high school senior should worry about. Education should not be a market that is only accessible to higher social classes or lower ones willing to make profound sacrifices." - Joe, Sophomore, IU

As social work students, it is in our Code of Ethics to pursue social change on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed populations. The upcoming strike illuminates an opportunity for us to support a cause for greater equality in education, and to support students who will face economic uncertainty when they graduate.

We strike against students paying 51% of the IU budget at a public university.

We strike against graduate students and adjunct faculty being overworked and underpaid, meaning mediocre classes for students.

We strike against broken pledges to increase diversity on campus by doubling underrepresented minority students in 2006, when the current African American student population rate is lower than the rate in 1976.

We strike against a 45% increase in tuition and fees in the past 6 years.

We will strike on April 11th and 12th while the Board of Trustees meet to make consequential decisions at IU. We support the strike. No work, no class.

*[A list of signers names follows in the original document.]*

## **Lesson on Nonviolence: A Response to Provost Robel's Statement**

Last Wednesday via email, Provost Lauren Robel sent all of us on campus a good example of what administrative anti-strike propaganda looks like. In her message, she mentioned a bad encounter with a group of strikers, the administration's readiness to increase consequences should bad encounters continue, and her thoughts on nonviolent civil disobedience. (Note: I trust you all at the paper have access to the source for the Robel quotes to come)

In a short column like this, it's impossible to untangle the entire web Mrs. Robel spun in her email. But one of the topics she mentioned was civil disobedience, and since I found her portrayal of this topic to be wildly inaccurate (and easily proven so), I'd like to take this opportunity to compare Mrs. Robel's words on civil disobedience to what past leaders who famously used the tactic have said about it.

Mrs. Robel: "Participation in civil disobedience is a moral decision, a matter of conscience."

Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela: "For me, nonviolence was not a moral principle but a strategy; there is no moral goodness in using an ineffective weapon." ([http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/17/books/review/Conniff-t.html?pagewanted=print&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/17/books/review/Conniff-t.html?pagewanted=print&_r=0))

Mrs. Robel: "I have also encouraged those who support IU on Strike strongly to examine their consciences about their tactics."

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with

you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom..." ([http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/resources/article/annotated\\_letter\\_from\\_birmingham/](http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/resources/article/annotated_letter_from_birmingham/))

Mrs. Robel: "...I am holding on to the hope that there will be no further physical assault of community members, or other actions that detract from our ability to react, as a university, with reason and fairness to concerns."

Henry David Thoreau, from "A Plea for Captain John Brown": "I do not wish to kill nor be killed, but I can foresee circumstances in which both these things would be by me unavoidable. We preserve the so-called peace of our community by deeds of petty violence every day." (<http://thoreau.eserver.org/plea2.html>)

It's probably useful to state here that I'm not endorsing the strike or its demands. The purpose of this article is to point out that the administration is trying to shut a student movement down, and if that means they have to stoop so low as to send out an historically inaccurate email to every single one of us recounting an administrator's firsthand experience with the recklessness of the strikers, they'll do it.

Sorry, Mrs. Robel, but history shows that the strikers' tactics were in the right.

A push or a shove is not violence. Interrupting classes and turning over desks is not violence. And while this next tactic hasn't been used yet, I want to announce publicly that locking administrators in their offices is also not violence.

It seems that you are confusing force with violence, Mrs. Robel, and from the already nervous response you and the rest of the administration have given to the strikers, I fear that you are ill prepared to handle the nonviolent force to come.

-Tyler Thompson

# a call for **OUTSIDE AGITATION**

**D**uring the last system-wide university strike in Indiana, then governor Whitcomb called the unrest the work of “out-of-state agitators.” This was a predictable attempt to diminish support for the collective action. Public universities are supposed to benefit all of society; therefore, **We want to be the first to say that we welcome “outside agitators” to the IU strike.**

People who are currently experiencing homelessness in Bloomington are facing increasing repression in recent months. IU could help in a myriad of ways, but instead has chosen to participate in the demonization and dismissal of the homeless by kicking them off campus and refusing to allow them to use campus facilities. **To those without homes in Bloomington, we welcome you.**

Many students studying at Ivy Tech would prefer to be at IU and have the grades and abilities to be

successful here. Unfortunately the increasingly outrageous cost of tuition is an insurmountable barrier to many. **To students at Ivy Tech and other community colleges, we welcome you.**

Local high school students often grow up longing to study at IU but knowing all too well that their socioeconomic status will not allow it. High school teachers attempt to motivate their students by encouraging them to strive for acceptance at IU, but in the backs of their minds they know it will take much more than good grades. **To local high school students and teachers, we welcome you.**

Those on strike against Lamar, an abusive construction company with an open contract with IU, have joined with IU on Strike for at least one demonstration. They face low pay and unsafe work conditions and are fed up with this mistreatment. **To those on strike against Lamar and to all other workers, we welcome you.**

Many people who are currently undocumented in the United States would love to study at IU if only they were eligible for the much reduced in-state tuition. Unfortunately even those who have lived the vast majority of their lives in Indiana are denied in-state tuition due to state legislation. **To all who face the discrimination that comes with being undocumented, we welcome you.**

While the IU campus is only 3 square miles out of the 23 square miles that is the city of Bloomington, its power and influence extend well beyond its borders. Try as we might, it's impossible to find it's outside. It is often said that as goes IU, so goes the town. Unfortunately, IU is increasingly causing more harm than good. **To all residents of Bloomington, we welcome you.**

In 1998 RCA closed it's doors after being part of Bloomington for 50 years. At one time this factory employed 8,000 workers, or 2% of

Bloomington's workforce. **To those affected by this or other related closings as Bloomington shifted from an industrial to a service and academic economy, we welcome you.**

The issues raised in the IU strike go well beyond the confines of IU, Bloomington, Indiana, and even the United States. Student debt, education accessibility, low pay for workers, discrimination against immigrants, privatization of what was once public, and repression against those who resist are international issues and we stand in solidarity with those around the world who are fighting back against these issues. **To everyone everywhere who face oppression, particularly but not exclusively around issues of education, we welcome you.**

- IU on Strike  
Fellow Travelers working group

*The strike  
belongs to all  
who participate!*

**THERE IS NO OUTSIDE**

# Strike Out, but ‘Crimson Flu’ Coming

By Brice Smedley | Submission to the Herald-Times

*This guest column was submitted by Bryce Smedley of Bloomington, former CWA 4730 union president and IU support staff.*

A general “strike” is being organized by Indiana University students who feel the brunt of an unfairly priced higher education system that forces upon them years of student loan repayment and debt. Support of this action by Indiana University support staff is warranted despite the fact that official staff strikes, even by the representative union, CWA 4730, are prohibited by the board of trustees under the mutual agreement of cooperation.

As the former president of CWA 4730 and no longer an employee of Indiana University, I finally have the freedom to speak my mind without putting my former union colleagues and other support staff in jeopardy. So, let me take the bold step to call upon all Indiana University support staff to strike alongside our students and stand up for a meaningful and symbolically important cause rather than allow this opportunity to slip by.

Here is why you should strike if you work for Indiana University as support staff:

You are some of the lowest paid Big Ten university employees and barely receive annual raises while the top income earners on campus receive huge pay raises each year. In fact, you have been asked in some years

to forgo a raise — to sacrifice for the university. As loyal and hardworking employees, you do this, thinking that everyone will sacrifice together. Unfortunately, while this thinking appears to be fulfilled for a short time, top administrators eventually receive raises retroactively, but not you.

Most of the support staff is now doing the jobs of two or three people. The university has failed to maintain adequate staffing for the work required, and in addition, has failed to offer raises for the additional compensatory work conducted by current support staff.

As existing support staff, you end up paying more for health insurance. Almost every year, you are asked to pay more and more. And while you can complain or call upon your union to advocate for you, you can never strike as a means to a just end as this action is forbidden by the IU Board of Trustees.

Thus, you suffer year to year. At times, you can't make ends meet; you struggle to pay the bills; and you remain an afterthought while top administrators line their pockets with higher raises on the backs of your children who each year pay higher tuition to attend Indiana University.

Now let me be clear: On April 11 and 12, you cannot strike or you could be fired. But you have accrued sick days, and I hear that a bout of the "crimson flu" has spread about the campus. If you don't stand up for your own job and for the injustice faced by students and staff alike, then who will?

We haven't got anything to lose but mountains of debt, unfair policies and bunk labor practices. To start off the conversation, here's a preliminary

# LIST OF DEMANDS

## IU SYSTEM-WIDE STRIKE - APRIL 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 2013

### **1. Immediately reduce tuition & eliminate fees.**

This should begin with a tuition freeze across the board to all students. Tuition and fees have increased over 45% in the past six years, and are still on the rise. Students currently pay for 51% of IU's budget, while the state of Indiana now pays only 18%. A partial tuition freeze with special preferences based on academics will only increase the burden on students who are already marginalized racially and financially.

The administration forces unnecessary costs on students through the charging of fees, which pad tuition. We demand transparency of these costs and call for the administration to pay for these costs and fees.

### **2. Stop privatization & outsourcing at IU.**

Privatization has led to an increase in costs, contributes to student debt and removes the products of our research from the public sphere. We demand that our university remain public.

Privatized parking is a direct cost to students and amounts to a wage cut to faculty and workers.

Privatization of the university bookstore - a deal between the administration and Barnes and Noble - has gone hand in hand with textbook cost increases, while simultaneously cutting off access to library credit.

### **3. End the wage freeze.**

Since there is no relationship between student tuition and worker compensation, the administration should not pit the two against each other.

Hourly workers, support staff, grad instructors and adjunct faculty face stagnation of pay, cuts to work hours, and the elimination of positions. Despite increasing enrollment and overall workload, the university is downsizing paid staff by shifting work onto unpaid student volunteers and interns. We are against this unfair treatment of workers and we support workers' independent struggles for improved pay and conditions.

### **4. The university must honor its promise to double the enrollment of African-American students to 8%.**

We support and take inspiration from the ongoing struggles of minority student groups and those working to increase diversity.

### **5. Abolish both HB1402 & SB590.**

The university must take all possible steps toward restoring in-state tuition for all Indiana residents, including undocumented residents.

By creating massive differences in tuition levels along racialized lines, HB1402 sets a dangerous precedent for future differentiation and tracking within the student body.

SB590 legitimizes racial profiling and racism on campus.

### **6. No retaliation for participating in or organizing for the strike.**

We stand in solidarity with anyone who is threatened due to their organizing activities, especially since workers have already been threatened by an overreaching application of a technical no-strike clause.



fig. 1: collective power & autonomy

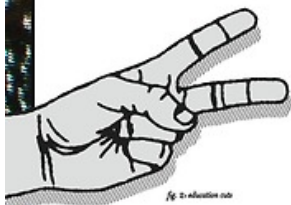


fig. 2: education cuts



fig. 3: our university

Reproduce these demands if you like them, make your own if you don't. // Assemblies are Mondays at 7:30pm by the Bowling Alley in the IMU // [iunstrike.tumblr.com](http://iunstrike.tumblr.com)

## **List of Demands**

This was printed as a black-and-white 11"x17" tabloid poster. There were also front and back half sheets using the same graphic theme which were distributed by the thousands.



REKOC

# SOUND the ATTACK

JOKER



REKOC



*Roving  
noise demo  
for the STRIKE\**

## April 1

JOKER



REKOC

**2pm @ the  
Red Clock  
behind Woodburn**

JOKER



\*The IU student and worker strike happens April 11 and 12. Skip class, call in sick, and join us in the street! There will be a march across campus on the 11th, leaving from Woodburn Hall at 10:30 am.

## Sound the Attack

This is an 11'x17' tabloid poster printed in color with the joker's costume a pale yellow with dark red shoes. The face featured on the jester is that of Michael McRobbie, the president of Indiana University.

The demonstration this poster promoted was conceived as a chance to build energy shortly before the days of the strike. The demonstration included very loud dance music as well as chanting and drumming. After this demonstration was the encounter with Provost Lauren Robel referenced earlier.

**WE FOUND  
DEBT  
IN A HOPELESS  
PLACE**

---

**APRIL 11 - STRIKE DEMO**

**RED CLOCK TOWER, 10:30 AM**

**WITH STOPS AT 11:30 AT THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
AND 12:30 AT WOODBURN**

**WOODBURN IS THE STRIKE CENTER APRIL 11-12  
[IUONSTRIKE.TUMBLR.COM](http://IUONSTRIKE.TUMBLR.COM)**



## **We Found Debt**

This is another tabloid sized poster which was one part of a trio of posters which referenced elements of pop culture. The other two posters said "You Knew We Were Trouble When We Walked Out," and "Stay Angry and Keep Fighting."

There was also a short video made about the strike entitled "We Found Debt in a Hopeless Place: Day 1 of the 2013 IU Strike" that can be found on YouTube.



## SQUARELY IN THE RED

APRIL 11-12

**The average IU student now graduates with more than \$27,000 in debt**, meaning they're squarely in the red. The red square is an international symbol of students suffering from debt and choosing to struggle against it. Here at IU, that struggle now includes the proposal for a **campus-wide strike April 11-12**. Wear a small red cloth or felt square to show that you're struggling against debt or that you know people who are.

[iuonstrike.tumblr.com](http://iuonstrike.tumblr.com)  
[@IUonStrike](https://twitter.com/IUonStrike)

## Squarely in the Red

This 8.5"x11" letter size flyer was printed in red along with it's companion tabloid sized poster of the same design. Many felt that this poster was particularly important as a reference to the struggles in Montreal the previous year, symbolically tying our strike to the global movement of resistance against universities and other institutions. This also gave some context for the red felt square that many people who supported the strike wore pinned to their shirt or backpack.

# SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WHO STRIKE APRIL 11/12



## IF HARASSED FOR ORGANIZING, WE HAVE YOUR BACK

Within the strike-organizing assembly, we've heard of more and more workplaces at IU beginning informal conversations about the campus-wide strike planned for April 11-12. We've heard also that employees in some of these workplaces have already faced threats due to their organizing. If you are someone who has faced these threats, know that you are not alone. We will do everything we can to support you, and live up to the strike's 6th demand:

"No retaliation for participating in organizing for the strike. We stand in solidarity with anyone threatened due to

their organizing activities, especially since workers have already been threatened by an overreaching application of a technical no-strike clause.

It will never be risk-free to organize against the administration, no matter how many other people are also angry enough to speak out against the unfair conditions and wages that are all too common at IU. But if we stand together, we can reduce these risks and fight against intimidation by the administration and its lackeys. This is why we now make concrete commitments - beyond just words - about what support we can offer to workers organizing at the university.

If you come to us seeking solidarity and support, we will follow your lead concerning which actions we may take to back you up. If you and your coworkers have received a

general threat we will also protect your anonymity in any actions we organize or communication we have with employers. However, if you've already been personally threatened with suspension or termination or have already been penalized, then you might want us to fight directly on your behalf and raise your specific situation with your supervisors. Options for support include:

Issue a letter of support and distribute it through the local news agencies, posters, our websites, and email lists. Mobilize support of students and faculty to protest, speak out, and organize call-ins to your employer or to the administration - sit-ins or occupations until the threat has been withdrawn.

Email: [insolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:insolidarity@gmail.com),  
or Call: (812) 682-0344  
[iunstrike.tumblr.com](http://iunstrike.tumblr.com)

# Solidarity With Those Who Strike

## IF HARASSED FOR ORGANIZING, WE HAVE YOUR BACK

Within the strike-organizing assembly, we've heard of more and more workplaces at IU beginning informal conversations about the campus-wide strike planned for April 11-12. We've also heard that employees in some of these workplaces have already faced threats due to their organizing. If you are someone who has faced these threats, know that you are not alone. We will do everything we can to support you, and live up to the strike's 6th demand:

"No retaliation for participating in or organizing for the strike. We stand in solidarity with anyone threatened due to their organizing activities, especially since workers have already been threatened by overreaching application of technical nostrike clause." It will never be risk-free to organize against the administration, no matter how many other people are also angry enough to speak out against the unfair conditions and wages that are all too common at IU. But if we stand together, we can reduce these risks and fight against intimidation by the administration and its lackeys. This is why we now make concrete commitments – beyond just words – about what support we can offer to workers organizing at the university. If you come to us seeking solidarity and support, we will follow your lead concerning which actions we may take to back you up. If you and your coworkers have received a general threat we will also protect your anonymity in any actions we organize or communication we have with employers. However, if you've already been personally threatened with suspension or termination or have already been penalized, then you might want us to fight directly on your behalf and raise your specific situation with your supervisors. Options for support include: Issue a letter of support and distribute it through local news agencies, posters, our websites, and e-mail lists. Mobilize support of students and faculty to protest, speak out, and organize call-ins to your employer or to the administration – sit-ins or occupations until the threat has been withdrawn.

## Less School Means More Education

I'd like to take a moment to compare what I learned in 20 years of formal schooling with what I learned in two days of the recent Indiana University system-wide strike:

Let's start with what I've learned in school. In elementary school I learned that those who don't do what they are told are punished. I learned how to ignore or actively suppress my own desires in order to fit the mold prescribed for me. In high school I learned that requirements for obedience extend well beyond the confines of home and school and that the norms of society must be internalized in order to be "successful." In college I learned to tell authorities what they want to hear and how to do as little as possible for what I want. In graduate school I learned that hard-working adults were not to have a life outside of work and how to persevere through intense boredom.

**In over two decades of schooling I learned two things: obedience and conformity.** And it was *excellent* preparation for the dismal but different work-worlds that opened to me with each successive move up the ladder of education.

Conversely, I learned so much else in the two days of the strike. I learned about making autonomous contributions to a collective struggle and when to step back and make room for others' initiatives. I learned how to fully confront comrades and about how to make plans with a large and disparate group of people.

My participation in the strike has taught me a great deal about autonomy and fighting against power – and was also a great source of personal growth. Furthermore, I learned about the myriad forms that resistance can take and about other struggles around the world. I also learned that I can stand up to those in power and that I stand by those who fight with me to the end. Similarly, I learned that I have many friends and comrades who have my back.

This contrast reveals much about the true purposes of schooling. The more I've learned about schooling, the more I am convinced that it is intended to promote obedience and conformity in order to maintain an easily manipulated population. This is clear if one looks into the history and philosophy of schooling, but I believe

it is most obvious when one reflects on their own experiences at school.

The same trends continue when one zooms out to look at society as a whole. The existing power structures are maintained by Capital and the State, which the illusion of social mobility keep most of us begging for the table scraps of the elite. And from schooling to prison, there are many way in which would-be rebels are kept in line.

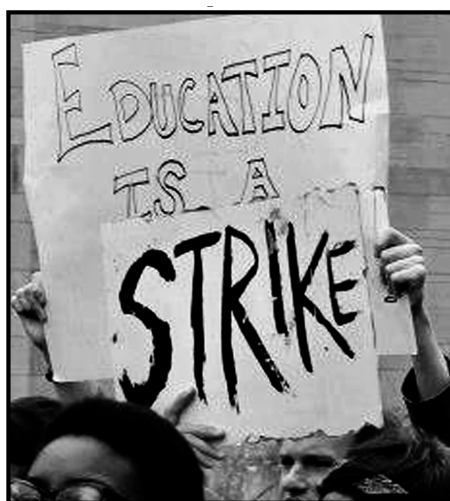
But, it doesn't have to be this way! The entire system is dependent on our complicity – it falters when we refuse to participate and breaks down when we begin to actively take it apart. All over the world, people are fighting back.

If you participated in the strike in any way, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on what you learned through the experience. Then compare that with what you learn in the same amount of time in school. You might also compare the joy and connectedness you felt in the strike with the boredom and alienation of schooling.

Make your own conclusions and act accordingly.

### ***Out of the schools and into the streets!***

<3 an Indiana Uncontrollable



# A Final Word From the IU on Strike Apologist WG



Josh [redacted]

April 12 [reply icon]

Grow up! We all have to pay tuition and student loans. Do you really think this will help? Should I go eat at Jankos little Zagrebs and when they bring me my bill; go on strike and tell them their prices are to high and demand that they be lowered? You can get the same education for over half the price at a community college. It was your choice to go to Indiana University, you agreed to pay these costs. Some day reality will bitch slap this younger lazier generation! You will learn that you have to work hard for what you get; mommy and daddy aren't always going to be there to tuck you in at night. Grow up kids! Nobody forced you to go to college. After watching your video, it sounds more like you are looking for free handouts (education). Your generation isn't the first to have to overpay for your education. College is a luxury not a necessity, be grateful that you have the option to go to school. If you put half the effort into your schooling as you have put into this "strike" you will land a good job and be able to pay off your student loans; you won't have to whine and cry about why they owe it to you to lower tuition. GROW UP



IU on Strike

April 12

Thank you Josh. We took your opinions to our General Assembly and we decided you were totally right and we will call the Strike off after today. Man, we were so foolish, what WERE we thinking?

Sorry for the inconvenience,

IU on Strike Apologist Working Group



Josh [redacted]

April 12 [reply icon]

It saddens me to look at my comments and see how old it makes me sound. I have been in the same place as you. I know tuition is high but no one forced you to go to IU. If you think these tuition costs are high, wait until grad school. Some day maybe you will understand what I'm saying; be thankful for what you have. Good luck with that.

*Thanks to many uncredited folks for the wonderful  
photos, analyses, and baller ass times  
featured throughout these pages.*

*This text was not produced by a particular "working  
group"; just by friends who want to destroy what is,  
so we may create what we want.*

3rd Edition  
B l o o m i n g t o n  
I n d i a n a  
Winter 2014